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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1957

Free The Thinker From 'Original Sin'

IF THE United States is to surpass Soviet Russia in scientific achievement and technology it must first remove a curse of "original sin" from its thinkers.

Major scientific research in the United States has been handicapped by all sorts of heckling and compartmentalization in the name of security.

When a speaker at a literary forum in North Carolina declared recently that he was "frightened by intellectuals," his supposedly learned audience reacted with a great murmur of approval.

In 1954, President Eisenhower found it necessary to define an intellectual as a "man who takes more words than necessary to tell us more than he knows."

Earlier, in March 1953, Postmaster General Summerfield boasted to a Republican audience that he was making good progress "rooting out the egg-heads."

Anti-intellectualism gained momentum in the heyday of McCarthy and Jenner with orgies of book-burning and massive attacks on leading U. S. universities.

During Rep. Carroll Reece's probe of the foundations, the Tennessee congressman made no bones about his suspicion that behind every Phi Beta Kappa key lurked a dangerous subversive.

Suspicion of scientists has undoubtedly hamstrung basic research. Walls of secrecy in the name of "security" have been so tight that scientists working on the same projects have been unable to communicate with each other and share useful information.

In April 1955 a U. S. scientific journal carried this prophetic warning: "The prevailing security emphasis on 'secrets' may effectively prevent many Americans from clearly grasping a fact of overriding significance: Russia and its satellites have the scientific and industrial potential to equal and surpass the free world."

The thinkers have either been "rooted out" as Mr. Summerfield boasted, or hobbled by secrecy and the search for absolute security.

The nation gets momentarily frightened.

Troubleshooting: A Tar Heel In Time

WHEN the chips are down in international affairs and an adroit troubleshooter is needed on short notice, U. S. presidents usually opt in a call for North Carolina's George V. Allen.

During more than 26 years as a career man in the foreign service, Mr. Allen has become American diplomacy's most agile handyman. He has been key man in a global hotspot after another to perform diplomatic legwork of the most demanding and difficult sort.

Mr. Allen replaced Arthur Larson, the high priest of "Modern Republicanism" whom many consider too controversial for USA's own good. Congress slashed the agency's budget to ribbons during the summer.

A special post has been provided for Mr. Larson. He will handle, in the words of Press Secretary James C. Hagerty, "special projects in international affairs relating to United States information programs and Soviet propaganda efforts."

Mr. Allen, meanwhile, is an excellent choice to mend USA's frayed fortunes. In the difficult art of diplomacy, he is a superb craftsman. He knows from firsthand experience the fears, hopes and sensitivities of both the leaders and the led in all of the critical global areas.

This week, President Eisenhower had a new fire for George Allen to extinguish. The smoldering discontent of many congressmen about the operation of the United States Information Agency. The Durham-born troubleshooter promptly became USA's new director.



'Yeah, But Look At The Beautiful Safe We've Built!'

ened by the Rosenbergs, goes overboard on security and decides that one scientist is as dignified as the next.

It is seldom even seriously considered that the United States could strengthen its security by limiting secrecy to a small but truly sensitive area of technology.

In so doing, the government sleuths could have wrapped up the Rosenberg case far quicker than they did. There would have been fewer "secrets" to protect.

In striving toward the impossible goal of security by secrecy on the whole broad front of scientific endeavor, the United States is certain to lose the true security that comes with vigorous and continuing achievement.

In surrounding the thinker with suspicion and distrust, the United States is endangering the very sources of its strength and the wellsprings of its progress.

James Michener, the writer, recalled recently how Albert Einstein had on the spur of the moment penned a note to President Roosevelt at the White House and what a fortunate thing it was that the President did read and heed that "often speculated," Michener said, "as to what might have happened to America if we had ignored our eggheads when they came up with the idea of atomic energy."

People's Platform Ban Sunday Births

Charlotte, N.C. (AP)—The People's Platform, a group of citizens, has called for a ban on Sunday births.

Why not close up the churches, too? Those poor, working preachers should have some rest. Think of it. Two long hours on Sunday! I imagine that is against one's good health. Give those dear boys a rest.

And if a person has stayed at home long enough to know where his bed is located he need not need any lights. We could give the power and light boys a rest on Sunday.

And why sit and yap over a telephone all day on Sunday? Give the telephone people Sunday off. Open the liquor stores on Sunday. Lots of good revenue would come in.

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LAST WORDS

AN OLD Belfast shopkeeper was about to draw his final breath and his sorrowing family had gathered around his bed. Suddenly he roused himself feebly and whispered: "Is mother here?" "Yes, Michael," she replied. "And my eldest son?" "Yes."

Smell of War Detected In The International Atmosphere

By JOSEPH ALSO

PARIS (AP)—"THERE'S a smell in the air... a smell that reminds me of much too much of the months before the Korean war."

The speaker was wise, highly placed and admirably qualified by long and varied experience in the international atmosphere. As he hastened to explain, he did not mean that a shooting war was immediately likely. He meant, rather, that the masters of the Kremlin were once more reacting in their customary way to a favorable tilt in the world balance of power.

Such a tilt in the power balance was both the prelude and the chief cause of the Korean war. The feeble Truman-Louis Johnson disarmament program of 1949-50 very gravely weakened the West. It thus constituted an open invitation to aggression.

Even the always cautious Stalin found the invitation irresistible. So he ordered the invasion of Korea. It was as simple as that.

Today, the absolute power of each of the great world systems has grown incalculably, but the all-important balance between them has again become unbalanced.

In general, the Western Alliance has shockingly deteriorated in this period. More specifically, the progress of American national defense has been hamstrung by the Eisenhower-Charles E. Wilson disarmament program and now we are beginning to see the hard, unmistakable results.

Not long ago a French newspaper ironically published in its Paris column a note to the second successful Soviet test of an intercontinental ballistic missile; the news of the latest unsuccessful American missile test; and

the news of Secretary Wilson's final order to sacrifice yet another dollar of the budget.

For one thing, the man who launched the Korean attack was no lover of wild gambles. Then too, he was the absolute and unchallengeable tyrant of his empire with no need to worry about the stability of his own power. But unlike Joseph Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev is very certainly a wild gambler.

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But this momentary caution has now passed, as was too clearly proven by the great forward move in Syria. When the time is ripe, however, other Soviet forward moves can be looked for. Indeed, they are already very nervously expected by the American secretary of state himself. For this reason, Secretary Dulles made the Middle East the main theme of his remarkable three-hour interview with his glum Soviet colleague, Andrei Gromyko.

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two years ago, solemn warnings were sounded by Sir Anthony Eden. Again, according to authoritative reports, Gromyko's response to Eden was just about as satisfactory as the response of Khrushchev and Bulganin, who literally laughed in Eden's face.

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'We Haven't Really Lost Any Face, Have We, Foster?'



Until Dior Do Us Part

Plumpness Is A Pleasure

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain (AP)—Two THINGS of value seem to have disappeared almost completely from the American scene—the jovial, middle-aged fat lady and the "pretty" girl.

The fat lady hit me on the plump side today on the beach when a handsome lady, who was unaccountably obese, hove in sight—and it seems to me that I hadn't seen a really well-dimpled knee in donkey's years.

Personally, I LIKE ladies who are a touch on the plump side. Maybe I've got a touch of Arab in me, but if I were to grab a babe, I would want something to get hold of—not a sheet of razor-edged bones. I think the prettiest girl I ever knew was a good 40 pounds over the modern norm, but she looked so dimly and rosy-cheeked and happy she made you feel good just to look at her.

And she was fat in proportion, too. Meel'd down, she'd have come out looking like Betty Grable.

MAMA SCORED (AP)—These days you can't tell the mothers from the daughters without a scorecard. Except, possibly, Ma's apt to be a bit thinner. I escorted a mother-daughter team to some function the other day, and was in for a surprise. My 18-year-old Ma, gray hair and all, didn't steal the whistles from the 18-year-old beauty.

I like ladies to get old gracefully and to let their hair go gray and put on a pound or two so you'll be comfortable in your old high school. Given the right go-tearing-around-in-bikinis, looking like fillies fresh out of high school. Given the right lingerie and an occasional faked lip, Grammie is apt to get picked up by sailors.

At least, the Grammes today are prettier than their daughters and granddaughters. There isn't any such thing as a really "pretty" girl today. I was checking the girlie ads in Vogue or Harper's, or some such the other day, just to keep an account with my fashion research, and it suddenly hit me that out of about a hundred models, there wasn't a pretty one in the bunch.

These kids who set the pace for the female bodies could be described as chic, sophisticated, exotic, striking, possibly sexy, or just plain weird. Their emulators have one thing in common with them—they all starve themselves to death and heighten the Lou Chancy effect with blue eye-shadow and sunken cheeks. They put their mouths up under their noses, screw the hair on one side of the head, stand spraddle-legged and seem to have been trapped into their hobbie skirts and burrap maternity jacket (wrong-end-of-the) coats.

I wrote a piece just after the looked-up, which caused quite a commotion, but darned if this flock doesn't look more peculiar than the female frustrates of 11 years back.

It's not all style, either, although I must